

CLAIMS

That which is claimed is:

1. A device comprising:

a container capable of holding and transporting contents having a built-in weighing device, where said container does not have to be suspended off the ground to determine it's weight.

2. A device according to claim 1 in which said weighing device is electronic.

3. A device according to claim 1 in which said weighing device includes at least one weight sensor.

4. A device according to claim 3 in which said weight sensor(s) are located on the base, sides, or top of the container device.

5. A device according to claim 3 in which said weight sensor(s) are located in the interior compartment of the body of the said container device.

6. A device according to claim 3 in which said weight sensor(s) are spaced sufficiently to provide the container device with ample balance and support, thus making the container device highly stable.

7. A device according to claim 3 in which said weighing device can be activated when placed directly on the weight sensor(s).

8. A device according to claim 3 in which said weight sensor(s) are used to synthesize and transmit data.

9. A device according to claim 8 in which said data indicates the current weight of said container device and its contents.

10. A device according to claim 9 in which said data is transmitted from said weight sensor(s) to electronic circuitry capable of determining weight information from the weight sensor data, and capable of displaying the weight information on a display.

11. A device according to claim 9 in which said data is transmitted from said weight sensor(s) through commonly known circuitry, capable of transporting data from the weight sensors to the electronic circuitry of the weighing device.

12. A device according to claim 11 in which said commonly known circuitry is fastened within the lining of said container device, and is not visible from outside of the container device.

13. A device according to claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry is contained within a housing structure located on the container device.
14. A device according to claim 13 in which said housing structure contains a power source to provide electrical power to the electronic circuitry.
15. A device according to claim 14 in which said housing structure can be accessed from the interior compartment of the body of the said container device.
16. A device according to claim 14 in which said housing structure can be accessed from the exterior of the body of the said container device.
17. A device according to claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry reads said data as the current weight or value of the said container device.
18. A device according to claim 10 in which said electronic circuitry calculates the net weight or value of contents in the said container device by having subtracted the pre-stored weight of the empty container device from the total measured weight.
19. A device according to claim 17 in which said electronic circuitry is connected to a display screen located on the container device.
20. A device according to claim 19 in which said electronic circuitry displays the current weight or value of the said container device on the display screen.
21. A device according to claim 20 in which said display screen automatically turns off after a period of time.
22. A device according to claim 20 in which said display screen can be turned on or off manually by a user.
23. A device according to claim 19 in which said electronic circuitry is connected to a switch, which when activated, can activate a light on said display screen.
24. A device according to claim 17 in which said electronic circuitry is connected to a switch, which when activated, can toggle the readout between pounds, kilograms, or other equivalent weight measurement units on a connected display screen.
25. A device according to claim 3 in which said container is comprised of a main body having a long side and at least one short side; a pair of wheels, a retractable handle assembly, and a plurality of zippers providing access to various compartments of the container device.
26. A device according to claim 25 in which said wheels are strategically fastened in a retracted position to not interfere with the weight sensor(s) of the container device.

27. A device according to claim 25 in which said wheels are strategically fastened in a retracted position to only touch the ground when the container device is tilted on it's side.

28. The device of claim 1 wherein the container device is a piece of luggage.

29. The device of claim 1 wherein the container device is a shipping container.

30. The self-weighing device of claim 29 comprising:

- a) at least one weight sensor for creating a data signal indicating weight of the container device, contents, and the weighing device,
- b) a display screen capable of displaying an indication of weight to a user,
- c) system electronics for receiving the data signal from the sensor(s), for converting the signal to an equivalent indication of weight, and for displaying the indication of weight on the display screen when activated.

31. A device according to claim 30 in which said container device may be either reusable or disposable.

32. The device of claim 14, wherein the power source is at least one of the group consisting of: batteries, power capacitor, inductively coupled power source.

33. The device of claim 3 wherein the sensors are retractable such that they can be active when not retracted and can be inactive when retracted.